

**REMARKS**

An RCE has been filed herewith. Claims 1-5, 8-15 and 18 are now pending in this application.

The Species including the layer *only partially burning off* during heat treatment has been elected in this RCE (see the Election/Restriction dated February 3, 2006). The Examiner has held that these claims are patentably distinct from the previous claims, due to the partially burning off feature.

For instance, claims 1, 13 and 18 require that the protective layer only partially burns off during the heat treating. Medwick fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claims 1, 13 and 18.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. All rejections should be withdrawn. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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